

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An imaging device configured to capture a frame of image data corresponding to a present field of view of said device in response to an image capture command, said device comprising:

an imaging assembly; and

a control circuit having an associated memory in communication with said imaging assembly, wherein said control circuit is configured to operate said device in at least "message only", "image only", and "two step message and image" modes of operation so that

when said "message only" mode is selected, said control circuit captures a frame of image data into said memory, decodes decodable indicia represented in said frame, and stores into a designated message memory location of said memory a decoded-out message corresponding to said decodable indicia in response to an image capture command,

when said "image only" mode is selected, said control circuit stores a frame of image data into a designated frame storage location of said memory without attempting to decode decodable indicia represented in said frame in response to receipt of an image capture command, and

when said "two step message and image" mode is selected, said control circuit captures a first frame of image data, generates a decoded-out message from said first captured frame of image data in response to receipt of a first image capture command, stores a second frame of image data into a designated frame storage memory location in response to receipt of a second image capture command, and associates said decoded-out message with said second frame of image data stored in said designated frame storage memory location.

2. (Original) The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said control circuit is adapted to receive said second image capture command of said "two step message and image" mode subsequent to receiving said first image capture command of said "two step message and image" mode.

3. (Original) The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said device includes a trigger for actuation of said image capture command.

4. (Original) The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said control circuit when operating in said "two step message and image" mode associates said decoded-out message with said frame of image data stored in said designated frame storage memory location by converting said decoded-out message into an image representation of said decoded-out message and stitching said image representation of said decoded-out message into said frame of image data stored in said designated frame storage memory location.

5. (Original) The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said control circuit when operating in said "two step message and image" mode associates said decoded-out message with said frame of image data stored in said designated frame storage memory location by storing said decoded-out message in an allocated open byte of an image file representing said frame of image data stored in said designated frame storage memory location.

6. (Original) The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said control circuit when operating in said "two step message and image" mode associates said decoded-out message

with said frame of image data stored in said designated frame storage memory location by converting said decoded-out message into an image representation of said decoded-out message and stitching said image representation of said decoded-out message into said frame of image data stored in said designated frame storage memory location, and by storing said decoded-out message in an allocated open byte of an image file representing said frame of image data stored in said designated frame storage memory location.

7. (Original) The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said designated frame storage memory location referred to with reference to said "two step message and image" mode is a memory location characterized in that said designated frame storage memory location is not a decode buffer memory location.

8. (Original) The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said designated frame storage memory location referred to with reference to said "two step message and image" mode is a memory location characterized in that said designated frame storage memory location comprises a designation flag indicating that the memory location includes a frame that is to be subjected to further processing in addition to decoding processing.

9. (Original) The imaging device of claim 1, wherein said device further is operable in a "message and image mode characterized such that when said "message and image mode" is selected, said device captures a frame of image data into said memory in response to receipt of an image capture command, decodes decodable indicia represented in said frame to generate a decoded-out message, stored said frame of image data into a designated frame

storage memory location and associated said decoded-out message with said frame stored in said designated frame storage memory location.

10. (Original) The imaging device, of claim 1, wherein said device is a digital camera configured to decode decodable indicia of image representations.

11. (New) A portable device comprising:

- an imaging assembly including a two-dimensional solid state image sensor and optics focusing an image onto said image sensor;

- a trigger;

- a portable housing encapsulating said solid state image sensor;

- a control circuit configured to operate in a mode in which said control circuit stores an image in response to a user-actuation of said trigger;

- wherein said control circuit is further configured to operate in a mode in which said control circuit sends said image to a separately housed spaced apart device together with a set of executable instructions executable by said spaced apart device, said executable instructions instructing said separately housed spaced apart device to (a) decode a bar code symbol represented in said image to generate a decoded-out message; and (b) transmit back to said portable device said decoded-out message; and

- wherein said control circuit is further configured to receive from said separately housed spaced apart device said decoded-out message decoded from said image sent by said control circuit to said separately housed spaced apart device.

12. (New) The portable device of claim 11, wherein said portable device further includes an illumination assembly comprising at least one LED.

13. (New) The portable device of claim 11, wherein said portable device further includes an illumination assembly comprising at least one white LED.

14. (New) The portable device of claim 11, wherein said portable device is configured so that said executable instructions sent by said portable device are sent via the internet to a

separately housed spaced apart device provided by remote processor assembly.

15. (New) The portable device of claim 11, wherein said portable housing is in the form factor of a cellular telephone.

16. (New) The portable device of claim 11, wherein said portable device is devoid of a symbol decoding functionality.

17. (New) A method for operating a portable device having a two-dimensional solid state image sensor, a memory, and being configured to decode a bar code in accordance with a decoding program, said hand held device being in communication with a separately housed spaced apart device, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) storing into said memory an image file in a file format suitable for storing image files, said image file having an open byte memory location, said image file format having an associated file transfer protocol;
- (b) decoding a bar code represented in an image utilizing said decoding program to produce decoded-out message data;
- (c) writing said decoded-out message data yielded by execution of decoding step (b) into said image file open byte memory location referred to in step (a); and
- (d) transmitting said image file including said decoded-out message data to said separately housed spaced apart device utilizing said file transfer protocol referred to in step (a) so that both of image data of said image file referred to in step (a) and said decoded out message data referred to in step (b) are transferred utilizing a single file transfer protocol.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said image file format referred to in step (a) is selected from the group consisting of .BMP, .TIFF and .PDF.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of converting said decoded-out message referred to in step (b) into an image representation of said decoded-out message, and stitching said image representation of said decoded-out message into said image file referred to in step (a).

20. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said image file referred to in step (a) and said image referred to in step (b) represent a common area of a target.
21. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said transmitting step (d) includes the step of wirelessly transmitting said image file.
22. (New) A method for operating a portable device having a two-dimensional solid state image sensor, a memory, and being configured to decode a bar code in accordance with a decoding program, said portable device being in communication with a separately housed spaced apart device, said method comprising the steps of:
- (a) storing into said memory an image file in a file format suitable for storing image files, said image file format having an associated file transfer protocol;
 - (b) decoding a bar code represented in an image utilizing said decoding program to produce decoded-out message data;
 - (c) converting said decoded-out message data into an image representation of said decoded-out message data;
 - (d) stitching said image representation of said decoded out message data referred to in step (c) into said image file referred to in step (a); and
 - (e) transmitting said image file to said separately housed spaced apart device utilizing said file transfer protocol referred to in step (a) so that both of original image data of said image file referred to in step (a) and said stitched-in image data corresponding to said decoded-out message referred to in step (d) are transferred utilizing a single file transfer protocol.
23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said image file format referred to in step (a) is selected from the group consisting of .BMP, .TIFF and .PDF.
24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said image file format suitable for storing image files is one that is dedicated for storing image files.
25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said image file referred to in step (a) and

said image referred to in step (b) represent a common area of a target.

26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said transmitting step (e) includes the step of wirelessly transmitting said image file.

27. (New) A method for tracking the shipment of a package from a first location to a second location remote from said first location, said package having a symbol affixed thereto, wherein said first location has a first imaging and decoding device, and said second location has a second imaging and decoding device, and wherein each of said first imaging and decoding device and said second imaging and decoding device are in communication with a common remote processor assembly, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) at said first location, actuating said first imaging and decoding device to decode said symbol affixed to said package to determine a decoded-out message corresponding to said symbol;

(b) at said first location, actuating said first imaging and decoding device to store an image representation of said package;

(c) associating said image representation stored in step (b) with said decoded-out message determined in step (a);

(d) sending said associated decoded-out message and said image representation associated in step (b) to said common remote processor assembly;

(f) at said second location, actuating said second imaging and decoding device to decode said symbol affixed to said package to determine said decoded-out message; and

(g) communicating said decoded-out message decoded by actuation of said second imaging and decoding device to said common remote processor assembly to access said image representation of said package correlated with said decoded-out message at step (c) for comparison between said image representation stored at step (b) and an actual condition of said package.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said communicating step (g) includes the step of communicating via the internet.

29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said communicating step (g) includes the step of wirelessly communicating said correlated image representation and decoded-out message data.

30. (New) A method for operating a portable device having image capture and symbol decoding functionality to create a record of information respecting a package for delivery having affixed thereto a first decodable symbol, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) actuating an image capture function of said device a first time to capture a first image representation corresponding to a first view of said package;
- (b) actuating an image capture function of said device a second time to capture a second image representation corresponding to a second view of said package;
- (c) associating said first image representation with a decoded-out message produced by decoding of said first decodable symbol affixed to said package; and
- (d) associating said second image representation with said decoded-out message produced by decoding of said first decodable symbol affixed to said package;
- (e) whereby a database is created for image representations related to said package, said database being indexed by said decoded-out message, so that a plurality of image representations corresponding to said package, are retrieved by searching for said decoded-out message in said database.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said method includes the steps of decoding said first decodable symbol a first time to associate said first image representation with said decoded-out message, and decoding said decodable symbol a second time to associate said second image representation with said decoded-out message.

32. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising the steps of actuating said image capture function a third time to capture a third image representation corresponding to a transportation vehicle carrying said package for delivery, and associating said third image representation with said decoded-out message produced by decoding of said first decodable symbol.